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January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

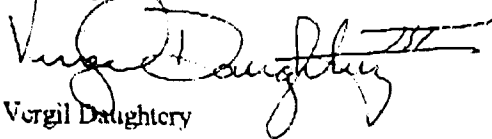
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support for the Microsoft settlement. I feel that the Department of Justice reached a fair and reasonable agreement, which nine states have already approved. I do not understand what more Microsoft should do to appease the states continuing with litigation. The concessions the corporation has already made have set new precedent regarding antitrust cases, and have set provisions to handle future problems that may occur.

Under the current agreement, Microsoft will change the way it develops, licenses, and markets its software. Microsoft will grant software developers and computer makers the ability to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software that competes with programs included within Windows. Also, Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose for use by its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows operating system products. It appears to me that Microsoft has, more or less, opened its doors for the competition to launch their products through its existing inventions.

I do not see what further litigation at the federal level will gain for the consumers. As a taxpayer, I cannot justify allocating scarce resources on a problem that has already been solved, and fear that the states continuing with litigation see this lawsuit as a revenue builder and nothing more. I hope you will see fit to judge this case by its merits, and not by political and legal trends. Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts.

Sincerely,



Vergil Daughtery